

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Ophthalmic apparatus for the testing of eye deviation of a patient's eyes, said apparatus comprising:

a) a variable lens having an optical axis and refractive characteristics which cause alterations in direction of rays of light passing through the lens along predetermined incident paths;

b) control means for controlling the refractive characteristics of said variable lens, during the measurement of a patient's eye deviation; and

c) output means for outputting a data value indicative of a measured eye deviation for the patient,

characterized in that said variable lens comprises a meniscus and a plurality of electrodes spaced about said optical axis, wherein said control means is adapted to achieve different meniscus shapes by a variation of a pattern of voltages applied across said plurality of electrodes, wherein said meniscus shapes are lens shapes having variable refractive characteristics and including at least approximately spherical or aspherical and at least approximately anamorphic lens shapes.

2. (original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the meniscus separates a layer of a first fluid and a layer of a different, second fluid.

3. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the refractive characteristics of the lens shapes are variable by variation of said pattern of voltages applied across the electrodes.

4. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ ~~claim~~claim 1, wherein said plurality of electrodes comprise one or more pairs of electrodes, and the members of each said pair are located on opposite sides of said optical axis.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ ~~claim~~claim 1, comprising means for rotating the variable lens about the optical axis.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ ~~claim~~claim 1, wherein said control means is adapted to rotate the pattern of applied electrode voltages about the optical axis.

7. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1, wherein the plurality of electrodes includes a  
substantially cylindrical electrode configuration

8. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1, wherein said output means is arranged to output a  
data value to be included in at least part of an ophthalmic  
prescription to be produced for the patient.

9. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1, further comprising a testing object comprising  
ophthalmic indicia for viewing by a patient during the testing of  
eye deviation.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1, wherein said at least approximately anamorphic lens  
shapes include at least approximately cylindrical and at least  
approximately spherocylindrical lens shapes.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1, wherein said control means is adapted to provide, in  
one refractive state, a lens shape having a focal power of a  
negative value.

12. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceeding~~  
~~elaim~~claim 1, wherein said control means is adapted to provide, in  
one refractive state, a lens shape having a focal power of a  
positive value.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceeding~~  
~~elaim~~claim 1, further comprising head mounting means for  
positioning the variable lens in a desired configuration relative  
to the patient's eyes.

14. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceeding~~  
~~elaim~~claim 1, further comprising one or more non-variable solid  
lenses which are positionable so as to share the optical axis of  
said variable lens.

15. (original) A method of testing the eye deviation of a  
patient's eyes, said method comprising:

a) providing a variable lens having an optical axis and  
refractive characteristics which cause alterations in direction of  
rays of light passing through the lens along predetermined incident  
paths;

b) controlling the refractive characteristics of the variable lens during the measurement of a patient's eye deviation; and

c) outputting a data value indicative of a measured eye deviation for the patient,

characterized in that said provided variable lens comprises a meniscus and a plurality of electrodes spaced about said optical axis, wherein said controlling in step b) involves varying a pattern of voltages applied across said plurality of electrodes to achieve different meniscus shapes, wherein said meniscus shapes are lens shapes having variable refractive characteristics and including at least approximately spherical or aspherical and at least approximately anamorphic lens shapes.

16. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein during the measurement the patient views a testing object comprising ophthalmic indicia through the variable lens.

17. (currently amended) A method according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the data value indicative of a measured eye deviation for the patient is recorded when the patient can view the ophthalmic indicia at a level of ability at least matching a predetermined threshold of viewing ability.

18. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 15 to~~  
~~17~~claim 15, comprising generating ophthalmic prescription data  
including details of the patient's eye deviation as indicated by  
said output data value.